

# South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Meeting and Workshop Minutes

March 21, 2019 at 5:30 PM  
Lemoore City Council Chambers

## Members Present:

Joe Neves, County of Kings (Chair)  
Ceil Howe, Empire West Side Irrigation District (Vice Chair)  
David Brown, City of Lemoore (Secretary)  
Scott Mercer, Stratford Public Utility District  
Charles Meyer, Stratford Irrigation District

## Members Absent:

None

## Others Present:

Charlotte Gallock, Kings River Conservation District  
Randy Shilling, Kings River Conservation District  
Brian Trevarrow, Kings River Conservation District  
Corey McLaughlin, Kings River Conservation District  
Amer Hussain, Geosyntec (Technical Consultant)  
Bob Anderson, Geosyntec  
Philip Brooks, Sunny Brooks Farms  
Calvin Monreal

Julianne Phillips, Kings County  
John Souza, City of Lemoore  
Antonio Solorio, Westlands Water District  
Frank Coelho, Lasaca Vinyard  
Cody Sedeño, Office of House Rep. TJ Cox  
Gary Quintel

## Special Meeting

**Item 1:** CALL TO ORDER

**Presenter:** Chair Neves

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

**Item 2:** PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Presenter:** Chair Neves

**Item 3:** PUBLIC COMMENT

**Presenter:** Chair Neves

Discussion: None

Actions: None

**Item 4:** CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**Presenter:** Chair Neves

Discussion: None

Actions:

It was moved by Director Meyer, seconded by Director Howe, and it was unanimously carried to approve the minutes for February 21, 2019.

(AYES: Howe, Brown, Neves, Mercer, Meyer; NOES: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None)



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**Item 2:** GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATE

**Presenter:** Amer Hussain  
Bob Anderson

Discussion:

Hussain updated the board on the next steps in developing the GSP. He noted that Chapter 2 has been provided to the Board for their review. Chapter 3 is still being worked on, and will be forwarded to the Board when complete. Chapter 4 is in development regarding Sustainable Management Criteria for Water Levels. Chapter 5 is about Monitoring Networks, and Hussain was requested by Chair Neves to bring back some cost estimates to the board for installing monitoring wells, as well as some SOPs for how long to leave existing wells off in order to get accurate levels from them, and the cost difference between doing that and drilling new ones. Chapter 6 is about Projects and Management Actions, and Hussain pointed out that – as Gallock had said at the earlier meeting – projects are currently being evaluated.

Hussain also reported that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has published a glossary of terms pertaining to the work of GSAs; not ever SGMA term is defined, so another glossary will be needed. Chair Neves requested from Hussein another glossary that was not completed by the DWR itself.

Anderson presented on the methods of measuring how much groundwater is being pumped. He highlighted several key reasons to measure: 1) there are undesirable side effects to over-pumping; 2) the measurements can help show the impact of these effects as they are affected by sustainable recharge projects; and 3) it is beneficial to farmers in many.

Anderson talked about both direct methods, which measure to total groundwater used and not the consumption levels by the plants, etc. (preferred method for modeling/credits/trading/etc.) and can be done by individual or parcel; and indirect methods, which measure consumption by crops/farms and not total amount of groundwater used (acceptable method, but not preferred) and can only be done by parcel. Regardless of the method, Anderson emphasized that data management is going to be a key hurdle to overcome in terms of manageability, privacy, and usability for enforcement.

A member of the public pointed out that, aside from being a tool that is actively watched by the GSA, accurate monitoring of pumping is useful to farmers for protection from accusations of over-pumping. If the GSA doesn't meet its threshold, then each farmer can show that they are not the ones at fault.

Actions: None

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**Item 3:** ADJOURNMENT

**Adjourned:** 7:16 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Board Secretary

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Joe Neves, Board Chair